

Central Coventry Fire District

Board of Directors

October 16, 2007 - 7:00 pm

Central Coventry Fire Station 4

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:03 pm

2. Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard

Richard Tellier - Joe Bonn - John Bowen (7:10 pm) - Anna Mae Lapinski

Treasurer: Tom LaColle

Tax Collector – Jeanne Graemiger

Asst. Chief Tucker

Additional People present:

Lt. Dave Gorman, Ron Gizzarelli

VP: Michael New, Robert Crowe, Chief Seltzer – Not Present

3. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting – 9/18/07

Motion: Richard Tellier Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski

All Vote Aye

4. Old Business - None

5. President's Report

Station 5 has been painted. It looks great. Mr. Bouchard commends the guys for all the work done.

Motion: Richard Tellier Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski

All Vote Aye

6. Chief's Report

Chief's Report presented by Assist. Chief Tucker as Chief Seltzer was unable to make the meeting. A new physical therapy place has been found. They have they guys bring their gear and work with them doing what they would be doing on the job. It seems to be going well.

Captain's & Lieutenant's exams have been posted. Chief Peter Lamb, from Attleboro will be proctoring the exams. The union agreed on him and the procedure is spelled out in the contract.

There is a problem with Captain Roderick's Pension Dating back to 1991. Chief Seltzer will be working with the Treasurer and the Pension Board to straighten it out. Mr. LaColle added that he had no records from the previous Treasurer and therefore it was going to take some work to figure out the situation with Captain Roderick's pension. Mr. LaColle also wanted to give kudos to Mr. Graemiger for a great job on the new Tax Collector's office. It looks very nice. Mr. Bouchard agreed and thinks we should present him with a certificate once it is complete. Mr. Bouchard also had kudos for all the guys who were at the Jade Rd fire. It was busy and Lt. Giles did a good job staying cool & calm.

Asst Chief Tucker issued a c/o for Tractor Supply today they plan to open mid-November. They were a very professional company to deal with.

Coventry High School has an EMT/first responder class that has been coming to the station once a week for the practical portion of the class. Mr. Bouchard asked if they receive their EMT license at the end of the class. Asst Chief Tucker said we are working with the school for next year for the students to be able to pass the EMT test. They can only get an EMT license if they are 18 years old. Mr. Bouchard suggested we provide them with a certificate from the Fire District upon completion of the class.

Asst Chief Tucker noted that the Plymovent system installed at Station 5 will make a big difference. Lt Gorman agreed saying it makes for a much safer work environment.

Under Maintenance & Repairs Chief Seltzer requested the purchase of two new vehicles. The dealer invoices are attached to the report. The vehicles requested would be purchased from Fiore Pontiac GMC. Captain Roderick used to work there and they are giving us a good deal. There is a \$1000 rebate that is only good this month. Mr. Bowen asked why this was not put out to bid. Mr. Tellier asked why this was coming up now. There is no provision for it in the budget. Asst. Chief Tucker said the Chief was hoping the vehicle would last until next year but the recent repairs costs were significant. Mr. Bouchard agreed that it should go out to bid. The cost presented to the board should include any costs to install and necessary lights & radios.

Motion: Richard Tellier Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski

Report accepted as presented - All Vote Aye

Ms. Lapinski commented that the timing for this was strange as we just started a new budget year. Mr. Tellier was concerned about spending more money that was not budgeted for as we just bought a new Dive Truck last month. Ms. Lapinski said she thinks it should go out to bid. Mr. Bouchard agreed and asked Asst. Chief Tucker to get specs and bids for the next meeting. Mr. LaColle asked about the handwritten note on the spec sheet attached to the Chief's report. Asst Chief Tucker said those amounts were rebates and discounts from the dealer. Mr. Bowen thought the bids should also include the costs to switch over the lights and radios.

7. Treasurer's Report

Rescue recovery collections have be slow as there has been a problem with Comstar. Rescue reports are still coming thru with Washington, Tiogue & Harris Fire District on them but all of the billing paperwork says Central Coventry. Chief Seltzer is working on resolving this issue. Lt. Gorman said that the laptops in the rescues are registered with the State so we had to wait to get our network set up before changing the names on the computers. The updates were being done this week so the problem should be resolved soon.

Last year we had a discussion regarding covering children of employees after they were overage. Mr. LaColle recently received a letter from BCBS stating that they had sent letters to all employees requesting info about dependants so that they could change policies if necessary.

There are 3 firefighters who have not turned in Direct Deposit forms. Also there are a couple Board Members who need to do forms as well. Asst Chief Tucker added he had a form from a firefighter to turn in.

Ms. Lapinski asked about including a Balance Sheet in his report. Mr. LaColle said a Balance sheet would basically show the balances of all the bank accounts. He will include that on his next report.

Motion: Richard Tellier Seconded: Joseph Bonn

All Vote Aye

8. Tax Collector's Report

Opal had the computer for two days and has merged all four tax rolls into one. There has been a good response to the legal letters sent out. Many taxpayers have set up agreements. Most people are not arguing about owing the taxes. They just want to set up payment arrangements. Tax Bills will be printed this week. They will not go in the mail until they have moved into the new office as the bills all have the new address on them.

Ms. Lapinski questioned when the due date would be. Mrs. Graemiger said the due date is set for 11/15. If the Board feels a grace period is necessary Mrs. Graemiger does not feel that it should be advertized. Ms. Lapinski suggested we allow a grace period until 11/30. Mr. Tellier and Mr. Bonn both agree that would be reasonable.

Mr. Bouchard asked what the final Tax Rate came out to be. Mr. LaColle responded the residential Tax Rate is 1.57 and Commercial is

3.12. It is only a 4.67% increase.

Mr. Bouchard directed Mrs. Graemiger to quietly allow a grace period until 11/30.

Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski Seconded: Richard Tellier

Report accepted as presented & Amended - All Vote Aye

9. New Business

Income Exemption for Rose Ramsey, 18 Lowell St

The Clerk provided minutes of the meeting where the previous person was granted this exemption as well as copies of the relevant State Law. All of the information was turned over to the Tax Collector to figure the credit. Mr. LaColle suggested a Policy be created so Mrs. Graemiger doesn't have to bring each person requesting this before the Board. There was some discussion regarding exemptions.

Last year all exemptions were denied. However as we have allowed this for one taxpayer we will allow it for all qualified taxpayers.

Moderator for Special Meeting 11/16/07

Mr. Bouchard will not be here for the Special Meeting on 11/16/07. He suggested that it may not be appropriate for Mr. Tellier to conduct the Special Meeting as he is one of the candidates. Mr. Bouchard asked if Ms. Lapinski would be willing to conduct the meeting. She agreed. There was some discussion about appointing taxpayers who are not employed by the Fire District to help the Clerk count votes at the meeting.

Info on Participation of Call Personnel

Asst Chief Tucker provided copies and went over information provided by Chief Seltzer regarding Call Personnel participation. Mr. Bouchard & Mr. Tellier said that it is something we should consider in next year's budget. Asst Chief Tucker stated that Joe Bourquin is the new coordinator for the Call Personnel. He has been trying to spark interest with the call personnel. Ms. Lapinski thought it is something who's time has gone by. Asst Chief Tucker commented that the State requirements make it hard for people to keep up. Mr. Bouchrad requested that the participation of call personnel be a regular part of the Chief's report.

Mr. Bouchard felt that after the Swearing in of the new Board Members there should be an election for President and Vice President. Mr. LaColle asked for the dates of the meeting. The Special Meeting will be Friday, 11/16 and the following Tuesday 11/20 will be the Regular Board meeting where new Board members will be sworn in.

Mr. Gizarelli introduced himself and hoped he could ask for the support of the current Board members in the election.

Lt Gorman asked if the date of the special meeting was changed or just the place. Mrs. Hall confirmed that the date was not changed only the place. The Special Meeting will be held in the Auditorium at

the Town Hall Annex (former Flat River Middle School).

10. Introduction of new business to be considered at the next Board Meeting

11. Adjournment – 8:25 pm

Motion: John Bowen Seconded: Girard Bouchard

All Vote Aye